

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 SSM-05 SAM-01

SAB-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

AF-08 ACDA-10 SCCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /113 W

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P R 081111Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8486

IFO RUQMKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1656

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4402

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: JULY 8 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTING ON LEBANON AND UGANDA

1. PRESS JULY 8 HEADLINED ASAD'S MEETING OF PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT'S CENTRAL COMMAND LAST NIGHT IN WHICH PRESIDENT REVIEWED LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANESE CRISIS.

2. ALL MEDIA FEATURED STATEMENT BY SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY (SANA) DENYING BROADCASTS BY THE "DEVIATIONISTS WHICH CARRIED FABRICATED REPORTS ABOUT SYRIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE LEBANESE FIGHTING." SANA OPINED THAT SINCE SYRIA IS NOT ENGAGED IN THE FIGHTING THIS HAS BROUGHT THE DEVIATIONISTS TO REALIZE THEIR WEAKNESS AND TO DRAG SYRIA'S NAME IN THE MUD TO JUSTIFY THEIR DEFEATS.

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STATEMENT CONCLUDED, "SYRIA IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT ANY RESISTANCE

FACTION IN FIGHTING THE ZIONIST ENEMY, BUT NOT TO BE DRAGGED BY ANY RESISTANCE FACTION INTO ADVENTURES AGAINST THE ARAB MASSES CAUSED BY INTERVENTION IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANY ARAB STATE."

3. TRIPARTITE SUBCOMMITTEE: ARAB LEAGUE SUBCOMMITTEE HELD FURTHER MEETING JULY 7 AND DECIDED TO CONVOKE ARAB FONMINS MEETINGS IN CAIRO NEXT MONDAY. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST STATED ARAB LEAGUE SHOULD NOT TOLERATE A CHALLENGE TO ITS EFFORTS SUCH AS THE CURRENT ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING. LEAGUE SHOULD ADOPT A CLEAR STAND AGAINST ANY PARTY THAT IGNORES ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

4. PRESS ALSO PLAYED STATEMENT LEBANESE MINISTER 'USAYRAN THAT 500,000 LEBANESE REFUGEES WERE NOT IN SYRIA.

5. KAMAL JUMBLATT WAS SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION IN AN ARTICLE ASSERTING LEBANESE LEADER HAS REVEALED HIS REAL INTENTIONS BY ANNOUNCING HE INTENDS SET UP SEPARATE CIVIL RULE IN LEBANON AND TURN HIS MILITIA INTO A REGULAR ARMY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. UGANDA: IN SOLE EDITORIAL DEALING WITH ENTEBBE RAID, AL-BAATH IN BLAND COMMENTARY STATED THAT SYRIA STANDS UNITED WITH UGANDA AND ALL AFRICA IN FACE OF THE "RACIALIST AGRESSION."  
MURPHY

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